



Wayne Co. ATC Hosts Welding Tournament

Welding students from Harrison Co. ATC, Lee Co. ATC, Madison Co. ATC, Nelson Co. ATC, Rockcastle Co. ATC, Wayne Co. ATC and Central KY Technical College recently participated in a special tournament to help them prepare for regional VICA competitions. The idea was sparked when welding instructors got together to discuss what they could do to help their students.



“Since my region is so large, this competition provides an opportunity for more of my students to compete,” says Karl Watson, Wayne Co. welding



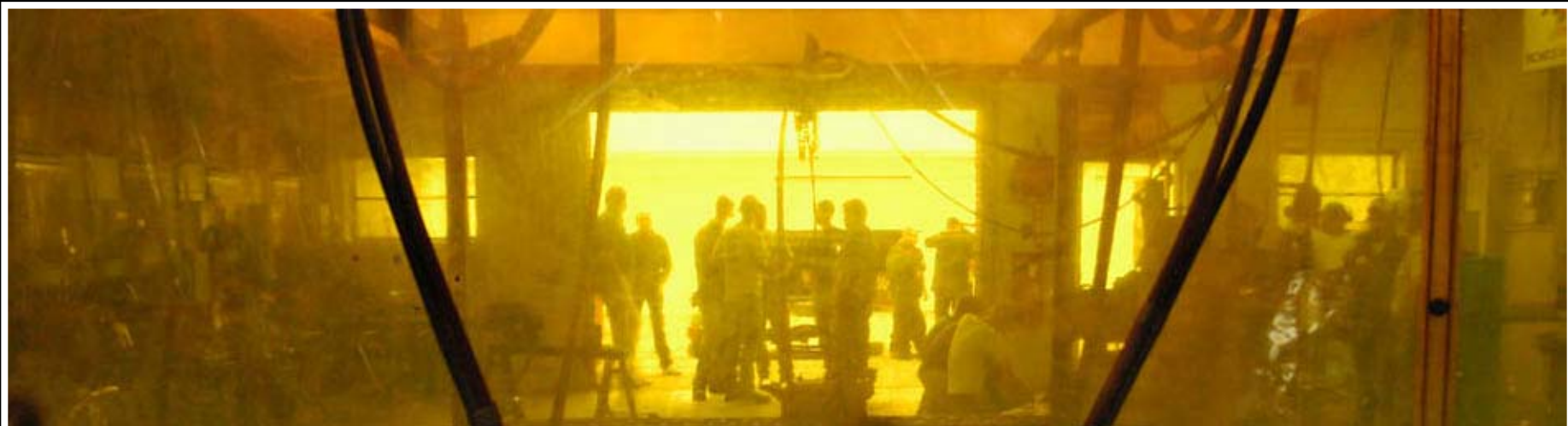


instructor and tournament coordinator. “It was our intent to pattern the competition like the pre-contest used at National VICA.”

“All welding and cutting contests are the elimination contests from nationals,” says Watson. “The written test came from the National VICA test which is taken from the American Welding Society (AWS) entry level welder test.”



The tournament was named for Frank McKinley, a long time supporter of technical education and past president of the Lexington section of the AWS. The scope of the contest required contestants to demonstrate their ability to interpret blueprints and perform welding skills.



“The camaraderie and communication between kids from different schools and the instructors is a wonderful learning environment,” said Nelson Co. Welding Instructor Joe Grider.

“There are so many good aspects about this type of event,” says Dale Cook, Madison Co. welding instructor. “Everyone gets to compete and my kids see they need to practice harder for the regional competition.”

“In my opinion, the best part about this entire competition was the fact that all students were told that they were going to have time to practice with the equipment before the contests started,” said Wayne Co. ATC Principal Danny

Photos below: Overall school winners were (left to right) Wayne Co. ATC, 1st place; Nelson Co. ATC, 2nd place; and Harrison Co. ATC, 3rd place. The competition incorporated three welding projects including MIG (GMAW), STICK (SMAW), and TIG (GTAW); one cutting project (Oxy-fuel), and a written test.





Guffey. "This was done because we knew that some of the kids used different equipment in their respective labs and we wanted to see the skills of the kids."

"Welding is competitive anywhere you go and a little nerve racking," says Harrison Co. Welding Instructor Joe

Pawley. "These competitions are great because wherever these kids go, they will have to take a performance test."

"Overall this has been a great opportunity for our students to see welders in other schools," said Sherman Cook, Rockcastle Co. welding instructor.

Watson credits Harrison Co. ATC Principal John Hodge for creating an avenue to pay for trophies and materials through the VICA Foundation. As this successful competition came to an end, plans were made to hold next year's event at the Madison Co. ATC.